

14. ~~[(Amended)]~~ A process for preparing food comprising the vegetable puree of Claim 1.

A3 15. ~~[(Amended)]~~ The process according to Claim 14, wherein the food is a vegetable juice.

Please add the following new Claims:

A4 18. ~~[(New)]~~ The vegetable puree according to Claim 1, wherein the acid is an organic acid.

19. ~~[(New)]~~ The vegetable puree according to Claim 18, wherein the organic acid is an acid selected from the group consisting of citric acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, malic acid, and ascorbic acid.

20. ~~[(New)]~~ The vegetable puree according to Claim 1, further comprising at least one salt.

21. ~~[(New)]~~ The vegetable puree according to Claim 20, wherein the salt is a compound selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, calcium gluconate, sodium gluconate, and potassium gluconate.

22. ~~[(New)]~~ The vegetable puree according to Claim 2, further comprising a salt water washing step.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 14 and 15 have been amended to more precisely claim the invention according to conventional practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. New Claims 18-22 have been added. As a result, Claims 1-22 are presented for examination. Support for the new Claims 18-22 can be found in the Specification on pages 9 and 11. No new matter is being added herewith.

The specific changes to the claims are shown on a separate page attached hereto and entitled VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, which follows the signature page of this Amendment. On this page, the insertions are underlined while **[the deletions are bolded and bracketed]**.